(e) whether a large number of animals and birds have also been killed in the area due to black smoke?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) IOC has reported that a leakage of Motor Spirit (Petrol) from the blind valve of one of MS Tank no. 401A occurred around 1815 hrs on 29.10.2009 causing formation of vapor cloud which spread in the entire area of the oil terminal. As the personnel on duty at that time fell unconscious and the density of vapor cloud prevented others to approach the leakage, subsequent formation of vapor cloud continued.

(b) Total stock of petroleum product (including MS, HSD & SKO) available at the time of fire in the Depot was estimated at around 50,260 Kilo Litres.

(c) and (e) Damage caused to the environment is being investigated by Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

(d) Death of 11 persons has been confirmed of whom six are employees of IOC. 07 persons have suffered serious injuries. 28 persons have suffered minor injuries.

Joining of IOC with Nuclear Power Corporation

568. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is planning to enter nuclear power generation through a joint venture with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL);

(b) if so, the status of this joint venture regarding establishing and commissio-ning of such power generation plants;

(c) whether the sources of regular feed stock has been identified as there is a shortage of nuclear fuel even for the existing nuclear power plants; and

(d) if so, what is the likely installed capacity of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) IOC has signed an MoU on 4.11.2009 with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for its venture into Nuclear Power. Various opportunities available in the field of nuclear energy and the role to be played by both the parties with a view to define their participation will be firmed up.

(c) and (d) The Techno-commercial modalities, including source of nuclear fuel and installed capacity shall be firmed up in due course of time.

Allocation of natural gas produced in RIL

569. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any decision on allocation of natural gas produced by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to the users in power, petro-chemicals and refinery sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RIL has the capacity to produce at least 65 million cubic meter per day (mmscmd) of gas from its eastern offshore KG D-6 field but is forced to restrict the output under 35 mmscmd for lack of Government identified buyers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to decide issues of commercial utilization of gas produced under NELP in its meeting held on 27.10.2009 has decided to allocate 13.165 mmscmd (million metric standard cubic meters per day) on firm basis and another 12 mmscmd on fallback basis, over and above the 18 mmscmd earmarked earlier, for power sector to ensure the operation of all power plants, including those to be commissioned in 2009-10, at 90% PLF. 10 mmscmd has been allocated on fallback basis to partially meet the requirement of captive power plants. Further, 1.918 mmscmd has been allocated on firm basis to petrochemicals sector for use as feedstock only. 5 mmscmd on firm basis and 6 mmscmd on fallback basis has been allocated to Refineries to partially meet their requirement of natural gas.

(c) and (d) Production from KG D-6 has started from April 1, 2009 and is presently around 44 mmscmd. Out of this production, fertilizers (urea), power, LPG, City Gas Distribution (CGD) and steel sectors are utilizing around 13.5 mmscmd, 24 mmscmd, 2.5 mmscmd, 0.5 mmscmd and 3 mmscmd respectively. Further, the EGoM in its various meetings has taken decisions regarding commercial utilization of KG D-6 gas till 91.611 mmscmd.

CNG as an alternative of petrol

570. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is better alternative of petrol specially in our country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some companies are working on their engines for better performance with CNG; and

(c) what are the steps Government is taking to increase the network of CNG supply in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) CNG, being an environment friendly fuel, is considered to be a better alternative compared to petrol. Using CNG also contributes to reducing the dependence on imported crude oil.